Perspectives on Globalization

Introduction

Globalization is a controversial topic. ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?*** This question will overarch your whole exploration during this course of study.

Points of View and Perspectives

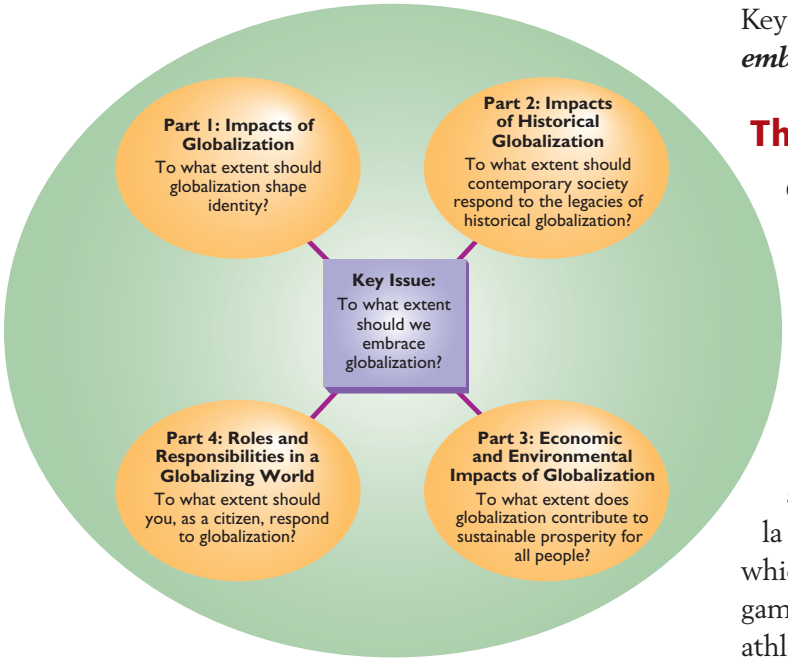
As you work your way through this text, you will encounter a wide variety of people expressing themselves about globalization and related topics.

- Some of these people will be presenting their **points of view**—they will be speaking about what they know to be true based on their individual identities. You will find that various people can have very different points of view because they have different experiences of the world.
- Some of these people will be presenting their **perspectives**—they will be speaking about what they know to be true based on their collective identities. A perspective can reflect the outlook of a cultural group, faith, age category, economic group, or language group. A perspective conveys a world view.

Why is it important to find out about different points of view and perspectives about globalization? Canada is a **pluralistic society**. This means that our history has helped us learn to value the many perspectives of the many groups of people within our society. One understanding of pluralism is that we respect and value both what individuals have to say from their individual points of view, but also what groups have to say from their collective perspectives. This respect for diversity in Canada encourages the development of a vibrant, democratic society. By learning about a variety of points of view and perspectives about globalization, you will understand the issues far better than if you learned about just one perspective. You will see more clearly how you fit into the bigger picture.

• What do we mean when we talk about globalization?
• What are different individuals' and peoples' experiences of globalization?
• How do different points of view and perspectives affect opinions about globalization?
• What are the ways that globalization can affect our society?
• How can it affect who you are personally?
• How has it affected people in the past?
• How does it affect people on a local, national, and international scale?
• As a responsible global citizen, how should I respond to globalization?
• How does it affect our lands, cultures, economies, human rights, and quality of life?
• Are these effects positive or negative?

This book will give you the opportunity to consider these and many other questions about globalization.


Part 1: Impacts of Globalization
To what extent should globalization shape identity?
Part 2: Impacts of Historical Globalization
To what extent should contemporary society respond to the legacies of historical globalization?
Key Issue:
To what extent should we embrace globalization?
Part 4: Roles and Responsibilities in a Globalizing World
To what extent should you, as a citizen, respond to globalization?
Part 3: Economic and Environmental Impacts of Globalization
To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?

In each part of this book, you will explore a Main Issue that will help you form an opinion about the Key Issue for this course: ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?*** Look at the issues for the four parts. Which one do you think will interest you most?

Skill Path

In every chapter, you will encounter a Skill Path feature. It will offer you an opportunity to learn a skill that will help you conduct more effective inquiries. You will have a chance to practise these skills in activities later in the chapter (as indicated by the skills icon SKILLS), in later chapters, and in four projects.

Inquiry-Based Learning

Every chapter in this resource is built around a Chapter Issue related to globalization. To aid you in exploring this issue, each chapter is divided into sections. Each section offers you an opportunity to answer a Question for Inquiry related to the Chapter Issue.

The inquiries you pursue in this resource will help you come to your own, informed opinions about globalization issues. By the end of the book, you will be ready to express an opinion about the Key Issue for this course: ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?***

The Photograph

Globalization is the process of becoming more globally **interconnected**—the building of ties within and among the peoples of the world. Globalization is also the process of making our world more **interdependent**—the growing of mutual dependence among peoples, socially, economically, and politically. In the photograph on this page, you see two Canadian, Francophone athletes who competed in the fourth Les jeux de la Francophonie (international Francophonie games), which were held in Ottawa-Hull, in July 2001. These games, sponsored by La Francophonie, drew 3000 athletes and artists from 51 of the countries, regions, and states that are members of La Francophonie. How is this event an example of the growing interconnectedness of our world today?

Stephane Gamache, left, competed in the marathon, and Isabelle Gervais competed in the 400-metre hurdles in the 2001 international Francophonie games held in Ottawa-Hull. Speculate how their feeling of interconnectedness as a result of their membership in the international sporting community might affect their identity as Francophone Canadians.